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Food and Home Notes

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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FOR PETROLEUM SUBSTITUTES ?

The soybean, a leading U.S. export...and silicon*, an element second only to oxygen in abundance, may become a winning team in helping to serve some of our energy problems, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers.

Scientists with the Agricultural Research Service point out that it's the old story of substituting an abundant agricultural raw material for a dwindling resource... in this case, petroleum.

Research scientists in Israel have been creating versatile compounds which are usually made with petroleum. The compounds are flexible at low temperatures as well as tolerant to high temperatures and weather resistant. These characteristics made such Cinderella compounds useful as lubricants and as insulation for power cables and high voltage wires. They also can be made into shock resistant pads and many kinds of protective coatings.

In the past, this research has resulted from the "Food for Peace" Program whereby the United States sells food and feed to other countries and accepts part of the payment in foreign currencies for use in those countries by the United States. Some of these funds have been allocated for agricultural research of benefit to the United States.

Dr. William R. Miller was the Agricultural Research Service cooperating scientist for this project.

*Silicon composes a major portion of sand, sandstone, quartz, silicon rocks, clay, granite, and many other common materials.

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ALMOST —

ALL ABOUT CRANBERRIES

A true native North American fruit, the little red cranberry was growing in this country even before the Indians were about, according to legend. The medicine men used the reddish little berry for medicinal purposes. According to folklore, the cranberry also was used as part of the first Thanksgiving feast in 1621.

This year, the first cranberry production forecast (based on mid-August figures from the U.S. Department of Agriculture) is 2.3 million barrels...the second largest crop forecast in USDA records (since 1909). It's supposed to be 9 percent above last year's crop ...but, weather conditions could change these forecasts.* The forecast for Massachusetts is 21 percent higher than a year ago. Wisconsin, the second most productive state, and New Jersey in third place, also expect record crops.

It takes about 5 years from cranberry planting until the first harvest, usually, -- about Labor Day -- then cranberries are available in fresh form through December.

Cranberry cultivation was first recorded in 1816 in the town of Dennis on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Massachusetts still remains our most productive cranberry state.

Cranberry products are available year around now in many versions from Cranberry pudding to jelly. They are a good source of vitamin C, and contribute to other mineral-vitamin needs in our diets. In Delaware and New Jersey, the folks used to consider the cranberry as a symbol of peace.

*Actual Crop report due this week; these figures based on August forecast.

FOOD COSTS...HERE AND ABROAD

Food prices in selected world capitals are reported (see chart on right) by U.S. Agricultural Attaches on the first Wednesday of every other month. These prices are based on local currency prices and are not directly affected by exchange rate fluctuations...so, shifts in exchange rates do affect comparisons between time periods.

Basically, the objective of printing this chart is to reflect the level of prices in other countries of food items normally purchased by U.S. consumers. While exact comparisons are not always possible, an attempt is made to maintain consistency in the items and outlets sampled.

Tokyo's rice prices have advanced by 5.8 percent following Government action to boost the 1976 resale price.

In Copenhagen it was reported that beef prices are expected to decline soon as a result of drought-induced higher levels of cattle slaughter.

In London, the red meat prices are at high levels because of short supply. Pork is somewhat more plentiful than a year earlier, but prices have remained high.

In the United States there is a downward trend (comparing July 75 to July 1976). The rate of increase was 2 percent --- compared to 11.2 percent during the previous (July 74-75) period.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Foreign Agricultural Service

FAS SURVEY OF RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN SELECTED WORLD CAPITALS, SEPTEMBER 1, 1976
[U.S. dollars per lb or units as indicated, converted at current exchange rates]

City	Steak, airloin, boneless	Roast, chuck, boneless	Pork, chops	Roast, pork, boneless	Ham, canned	Bacon, sliced, pkgd.	Broilers, whole	Eggs, dozen	Butter	Margarine	Cheese: Edam, Gouda, or Cheddar	Milk, whole, quart	Oil, cooking, quart	Tomatoes	Onions, yellow	Potatoes	Apples	Oranges, dozen	Bread, white, pkgd.	Rice	Sugar
Bonn	4.50	2.88	2.45	4.14	(1)	3.68	0.82	1.13	1.61	0.72	1.30	0.38	1.63	0.28	0.23	0.19	0.20	1.42	0.28	0.65	0.25
Brasilia	.77	.67	.94	1.86	1.71	2.45	.59	.80	1.27	.44	1.49	.22	.88	.28	.24	.21	.49	.37	.47	.20	.14
Brussels	3.94	1.99	2.04	2.11	2.70	1.40	.99	1.14	1.66	.67	1.94	.40	1.07	.43	.23	.20	.25	.67	.30	.41	.34
Buenos Aires	.76	.39	.79	(1)	(1)	(1)	.73	1.08	1.24	.69	1.24	.23	2.15	.78	.08	.20	.17	.55	.29	.43	.37
Canberra	1.72	.85	1.81	1.81	2.12	2.50	.96	1.17	.97	.83	1.61	.43	1.46	.61	.31	.17	.21	1.20	.40	.36	.17
Copenhagen	4.96	2.33	2.70	2.85	3.21	2.53	.94	1.33	1.53	.47	1.42	.39	1.64	.44	.53	.29	.53	2.48	.58	.52	.29
London	3.04	1.44	1.42	1.14	1.46	1.81	.66	.85	.76	.59	.92	.25	1.13	.28	.18	.21	.25	1.49	.20	.34	.20
Mexico City	.93	.84	.91	1.20	1.95	1.15	.61	.48	1.15	.62	2.26	.19	.88	.29	.14	.12	.33	.36	.19	.23	.05
Ottawa	1.80	1.19	2.20	1.73	2.28	1.86	.91	.97	1.19	.91	1.69	.59	1.80	.50	.20	.09	.40	1.49	.52	.54	.22
Paris	2.86	1.64	(1)	2.46	3.24	3.77	.86	1.35	1.58	.58	1.54	.35	1.06	.18	.29	.24	.28	1.24	.64	.32	.25
Rome	2.75	2.13	1.90	(1)	4.45	1.65	.96	1.05	1.60	.70	1.39	.34	.78	.30	.18	.19	.19	1.32	.37	.25	.27
Stockholm	5.19	2.98	2.36	4.22	2.75	2.94	1.47	1.54	1.40	.97	2.06	.32	4.38	.68	.66	.23	.64	1.51	.85	.59	.36
The Hague	3.79	2.15	2.39	2.93	2.05	3.26	.86	1.14	1.44	.48	1.71	.35	.84	.20	.22	.17	.22	.88	.28	.39	.27
Tokyo	8.80	6.00	3.17	3.30	4.48	3.60	1.28	.94	2.27	1.35	2.38	.68	1.67	.46	.35	.46	.92	4.24	.44	.44	.43
Washington	1.77	1.22	1.96	2.25	2.35	1.81	.53	.89	1.40	.73	2.18	.47	1.36	.49	.23	.20	.46	1.47	.48	.35	.21
Median	2.86	1.64	2.00	2.25	2.35	2.48	.86	1.08	1.40	.69	1.61	.35	1.36	.43	.23	.20	.28	1.32	.40	.39	.25

* Not available. Source: U.S. Agricultural Attaches.

KITCHENS — IN THE "GOOD OLD DAYS"

Morris County, N.J.

-- July 1928

"...an unimproved kitchen"

Photo # BN 39057

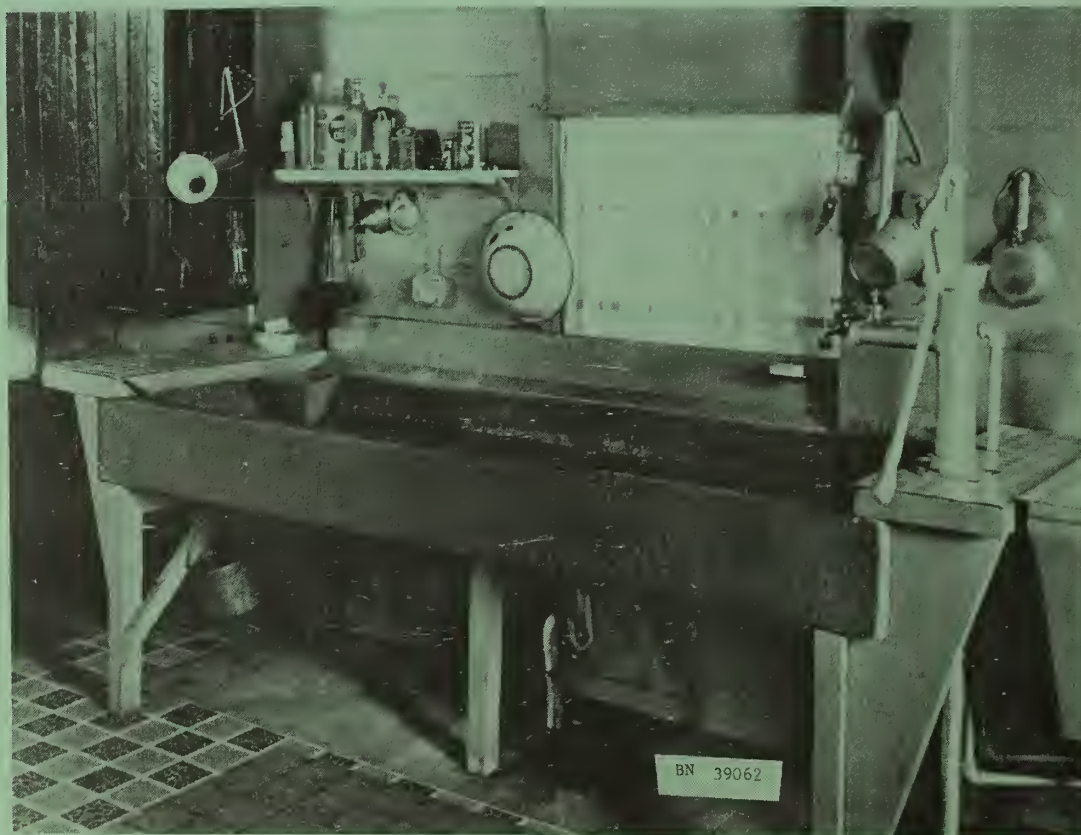


Hartford, Conn.

-- 1929

...an old sandstone sink (built in 1740)

Photo # 39062



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